



**NATIONAL
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POTATO STOCKS

JANUARY 1, 2009

The 13 major potato States held 213 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2009, down 9 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below January 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 58 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, down 1 point from January 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 3.30 million cwt on January 1, 2009, down 3 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 155 million cwt, was 5 percent below both January 1, 2008 and 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 14.8 million cwt, was down 10 percent from the same date in 2008 and 8 percent below 2007. Processors in the 9 major States have used 87.3 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 3 percent from the same period last year and down 4 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 14.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 13 percent from last year and 24 percent below the same period in 2007.

Western States held 172 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, up 10 percent from last year and 9 percent above 2006. Central States accounted for 51.9 million cwt of potato stocks on January 1, down 5 percent from last year but 6 percent above the same date in 2006. Eastern States stored 13.2 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, down 12 percent from last year and 1 percent below January 1, 2007.

Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 68 percent of the production for the 2003-2007 period. The remaining 32 percent of production is used for seed, processing, feed and home use or is lost through cullage and shrinkage. The total quantity of potatoes sold as a percent of production has averaged about 86 percent over the past five years. If these relationships for total sales and table stock sales exist for the 2008 crop, about 18.4 million cwt of the 21.34 million cwt produced will be sold of which 14.5 million cwt will be sold as table stock.

CATTLE ON FEED

JANUARY 1, 2009

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,000,000 head as of January 1, 2009. The latest inventory was down 1 percent from December 1, 2008 and down 9 percent from January 1, 2008. The inventory included 610,000 steers and steer calves, down 9 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 385,000 head, are also down 9 percent from a year ago. The number of cows and bulls totaled 5,000, no change from last year's number. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 155,000 head of fed cattle during December 2008. This was 19 percent above November 2008 marketings of 130,000 head and 15 percent above a year ago. An estimated 150,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during December, 12 percent below a year ago and 19 percent below November 2008 placements of 185,000. Of the number placed in December, 17 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 30 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 27 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 27 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for December was estimated at 5,000 head, no change from last month and last year.

Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States, 1,000 Plus Capacity, January 1, 2008-2009

| Item | Colorado | | United States | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|---------------|--------|
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 |
| | 1,000 head | | | |
| On Feed Dec. 1 prev. yr. | 1,070 | 1,010 | 12,099 | 11,346 |
| Placements During Dec. | 170 | 150 | 1,701 | 1,647 |
| < 600 pounds | 30 | 25 | 480 | 425 |
| 600 - 699 Pounds | 55 | 45 | 505 | 490 |
| 700 - 799 Pounds | 50 | 40 | 420 | 407 |
| 800 Plus Pounds | 35 | 40 | 296 | 325 |
| Marketings During Dec. | 135 | 155 | 1,645 | 1,683 |
| Other Disap. During Dec. | 5 | 5 | 58 | 76 |
| On Feed Jan 1. | 1,100 | 1,000 | 12,097 | 11,234 |
| Steers & Steer Calves | 670 | 610 | 7,646 | 7,071 |
| Heifers & Heifer Calves | 425 | 385 | 4,381 | 4,100 |
| Cows & Bulls | 5 | 5 | 70 | 63 |

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on January 1, 2009. The inventory was 7 percent below January 1, 2008 and 6 percent below January 1, 2007. The inventory included 7.07 million steers and steer calves, down 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory.

Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.10 million head,

down 6 percent from 2008. Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.65 million, 3 percent below 2007 and 4 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.57 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 425,000, 600-699 pounds were 490,000, 700-799 pounds were 407,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 325,000. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.68 million, 2 percent above 2007 and 4 percent above 2006. Other disappearance totaled 76,000 during December, 31 percent above 2007 but 14 percent below 2006.

GRAIN STOCKS DECEMBER 1, 2008

All wheat stocks in **Colorado's** farm and commercial storage facilities as of December 1, 2008 totaled 32.3 million bushels, down 26 percent from 43.6 million bushels on hand a year earlier. Farm stocks decreased 40 percent to 10.5 million bushels and off-farm stocks were down 16 percent to 21.8 million. All wheat for the **United States** stored in all positions on December 1, 2008 totaled 1.42 billion bushels, up 26 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 454 million bushels, up 57 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks, at 968 million bushels, are up 15 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2008 indicated disappearance is 436 million bushels, down 25 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Colorado corn stocks were down 14 percent from the previous year to 87.6 million bushels. Farm stocks were down 8 percent to 55.0 million bushels and off-farm stocks decreased 22 percent to 32.6 million bushels. **United States corn** stored in all positions on December 1, 2008 totaled 10.1 billion bushels, down 2 percent from December 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 6.48 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.60 billion bushels, are down 4 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2008 indicated disappearance is 3.64 billion bushels, compared with 4.06 billion bushels during the same period last year.

United States soybeans stored in all positions on December 1, 2008 totaled 2.28 billion bushels, down 4 percent from December 1, 2007. Soybean stocks stored on farms totaled 1.19 billion bushels, up 5 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 1.09 billion bushels, are down 12 percent from last December. Indicated disappearance for September - November 2008 totaled 889 million bushels, down slightly from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stored in all positions on December 1, 2008 totaled 173 million bushels, up 27 percent from December 1, 2007. On-farm stocks are estimated at 77.1 million bushels, 24 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 95.8 million bushels, are 30 percent above December 2007. The September - November 2008 indicated disappearance is 35.9 million bushels, 32 percent below the same period a year earlier. **Oats** stored in all positions on December 1, 2008 totaled 115 million bushels, 22 percent above the stocks on December 1, 2007. Of the total stocks on hand, 42.6 million

bushels are stored on farms, down 1 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 72.3 million bushels, up 41 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during September - November 2008 totaled 4.22 million bushels.

Colorado's on farm storage capacity was rated at 170 million bushels as of December 1, 2008, unchanged from one year earlier. The off-farm storage capacity remained unchanged from December 1, 2007 at 115.0 million bushels. On farm capacity for the **United States** increased from a year ago to 12.0 billion bushels and off-farm storage capacity at 9.4 billion bushels.

Grain Stocks Colorado and United States, December 1, 2007-2008

| Grain and Position ^{1/} | Colorado | | United States | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|---------------|------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| 1,000 Bushels | | | | |
| All wheat | | | | |
| On farms..... | 17,500 | 10,500 | 289,540 | 454,000 |
| Off farms..... | 26,050 | 21,770 | 842,398 | 968,224 |
| Total..... | 43,550 | 32,270 | 1,131,938 | 1,422,224 |
| Corn | | | | |
| On farms..... | 60,000 | 55,000 | 6,530,000 | 6,482,000 |
| Off farms..... | 41,760 | 32,550 | 3,478,085 | 3,602,467 |
| Total..... | 101,760 | 87,550 | 10,278,085 | 10,084,467 |
| Barley | | | | |
| On farms..... | 2/ | 2/ | 62,050 | 77,050 |
| Off farms..... | 2/ | 5,435 | 73,728 | 95,751 |
| Total..... | 2/ | 2/ | 135,778 | 172,801 |
| Oats | | | | |
| On farms..... | 2/ | 2/ | 43,100 | 42,600 |
| Off farms..... | 65 | 65 | 51,331 | 72,278 |
| Total..... | 2/ | 2/ | 94,431 | 114,878 |
| Sorghum | | | | |
| On farms..... | 2/ | 2/ | 51,400 | 54,400 |
| Off farms..... | 940 | 780 | 239,850 | 257,351 |
| Total..... | | | 291,250 | 311,751 |
| Soybeans | | | | |
| On farms..... | 2/ | 2/ | 1,128,500 | 1,189,000 |
| Off farms..... | 2/ | 2/ | 1,231,860 | 1,086,593 |
| Total..... | 2/ | 2/ | 2,360,360 | 2,275,593 |

^{1/} Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.
^{2/} Not published separately.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS 2009 CROP

Colorado producers seeded 2.40 million acres of winter wheat during the fall of 2008 for harvest in 2009, up 12 percent from the 2.15 million acres seeded for the 2008 crop. Planting began on schedule in most areas. Germination was very good, but dry conditions in a few areas delayed emergence. As usual, prospects for the 2009 crop will be heavily dependent on winter and spring weather.

United States winter wheat seeded area for 2008 is expected to total 46.6 million acres, up 4 percent from 2007. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 32.5 million; Soft Red Winter, 10.5 million; and White Winter, 3.65 million.

Winter Wheat Area Seeded, 2007-2009 Crops 1/

| State | Crop of | | | 09/08 |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|----------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | |
| | 1,000 Acres | | | % |
| Alabama | 120 | 240 | 240 | 100 |
| Arizona | 6 | 13 | 7 | 54 |
| Arkansas | 820 | 1,070 | 420 | 39 |
| California | 550 | 650 | 670 | 103 |
| Colorado | 2,500 | 2,150 | 2,400 | 112 |
| Delaware | 57 | 80 | 80 | 100 |
| Florida | 13 | 25 | 22 | 88 |
| Georgia | 360 | 480 | 340 | 71 |
| Idaho | 750 | 850 | 740 | 87 |
| Illinois | 1,000 | 1,200 | 850 | 71 |
| Indiana | 420 | 580 | 470 | 81 |
| Iowa | 35 | 40 | 30 | 75 |
| Kansas | 10,400 | 9,600 | 9,000 | 94 |
| Kentucky | 440 | 580 | 490 | 84 |
| Louisiana | 235 | 400 | 260 | 65 |
| Maryland | 220 | 255 | 230 | 90 |
| Michigan | 550 | 730 | 570 | 78 |
| Minnesota | 65 | 75 | 45 | 60 |
| Mississippi | 370 | 520 | 260 | 50 |
| Missouri | 1,050 | 1,250 | 800 | 64 |
| Montana | 2,240 | 2,600 | 2,500 | 96 |
| Nebraska | 2,050 | 1,750 | 1,700 | 97 |
| Nevada | 17 | 12 | 13 | 108 |
| New Jersey | 31 | 35 | 32 | 91 |
| New Mexico | 490 | 430 | 410 | 95 |
| New York | 100 | 130 | 115 | 88 |
| North Carolina | 630 | 820 | 670 | 82 |
| North Dakota | 465 | 630 | 530 | 84 |
| Ohio | 820 | 1,120 | 1,020 | 91 |
| Oklahoma | 5,900 | 5,600 | 5,400 | 96 |
| Oregon | 735 | 780 | 780 | 100 |
| Pennsylvania | 170 | 195 | 195 | 100 |
| South Carolina | 160 | 220 | 160 | 73 |
| South Dakota | 2,100 | 2,050 | 1,750 | 85 |
| Tennessee | 420 | 620 | 380 | 61 |
| Texas | 6,200 | 5,800 | 5,900 | 102 |
| Utah | 135 | 130 | 130 | 100 |
| Virginia | 230 | 310 | 270 | 87 |
| Washington | 1,720 | 1,750 | 1,740 | 99 |
| West Virginia | 8 | 11 | 9 | 82 |
| Wisconsin | 290 | 350 | 320 | 91 |
| Wyoming | 140 | 150 | 150 | 100 |
| United States | 45,012 | 46,281 | 42,098 | 91 |

1/ Total area seeded for all purposes.

**HAY STOCKS
DECEMBER 1, 2008**

U.S. stocks of all hay stored on farms totaled 104 million tons on December 1, 2008, down less than 1 percent from a year ago. Disappearance of hay from May-December 2008 totaled 63.6 million tons, compared with 57.8 million tons for the same period a year ago. **Colorado** farm and ranch operators had 1.98 million tons of hay on hand as of December 1, 2008, down 18 percent from the 2.40 million tons on hand one year earlier and 7 percent below two years ago.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 14.6 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from December 2007. November revised production at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent November 2007. The November revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,726 pounds for December, 8 pounds above December 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.48 million head, 90,000 head more than December 2007, and 7,000 head more than November 2008.

Milk production in the U.S. during the October - December quarter totaled 46.6 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.28 million head, 85,000 head more than the same period last year.

Colorado dairy herds produced 252 million pounds of milk during December 2008, up 16 million pounds from December last year. The average number of cows, at 130,000, is up 10,000 head from the 120,000 cows on hand a year ago. The average milk per cow for the month of December in Colorado was 1,940 pounds per cow compared with 1,965 pounds per cow in December 2007. Colorado ranked sixth in milk production per cow in December, 2008.

Milk Production, December, 2007-2008

| Item | Unit | 2007 | 2008 |
|-------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Colorado: | | | |
| Milk Cows 1/ | 1,000 Head | 120 | 130 |
| Production Per Cow..... | Pounds | 1,965 | 1,940 |
| Production 2/ | Mil. Lbs. | 236 | 252 |
| 23 State Total: | | | |
| Milk Cows 1/ | 1,000 Head | 8,389 | 8,479 |
| Production Per Cow..... | Pounds | 1,718 | 1,726 |
| Production 2/ | Mil. Lbs. | 14,414 | 14,633 |

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

DECEMBER 2008

Colorado laying flocks produced 98 million eggs during December 2008 compared with 91 million one month earlier and 92 million during December 2007. The number of layers during December totaled 3.96 million, up 3 percent from 3.86 million a year earlier. The average rate of lay for December 2008, was 2,478 eggs per 100 layers, up 4 percent from the December 2007, total of 2,382 eggs per 100 layers.

United States egg production totaled 7.78 billion during December 2008, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.71 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.00 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2008 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,281 eggs, up 1 percent from December 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2009 totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.81 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2009, averaged 72.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from January 1, 2008.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www/nass.usda.gov>

- Jan. 22 - Cold Storage
- Jan. 23 - Fruit Crops - Annual
- Jan. 23 - Livestock Slaughter
- Jan. 28 - Vegetables - Annual
- Jan. 30 - Agricultural Prices
- Jan. 30 - Cattle Inventory
- Jan. 30 - Sheep and Goats Inventory

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